

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 110151  
ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/ARP:JWTTWINAM:TH

APPROVED BY THE SECRETARY

T:LBENSON (IN DRAFT)

H:BATWOOD (IN DRAFT)

NSC:WQUANDT

NEA:HNSAUNDERS

D - MR.CHRISTOPHER

S/S: RCASTRODALE

-----124014 011505Z /46

O 011459Z MAY 78 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA NIACT IMMEDIATE

WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE 0209

S E C R E T STATE 110151

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, SA, US

SUBJECT: F-15 SALE

1. YOU SHOULD DELIVER FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT  
TO KING KHALID THROUGH APPROPRIATELY SENIOR SAG OFFICIAL:

2. QUOTE: YOUR MAJESTY: I AM PLEASED TO TELL YOU THAT  
ON APRIL 28 I SUBMITTED TO THE CONGRESS FOR REVIEW THE  
CONTRACT TO PROVIDE SIXTY F-15 AIRCRAFT TO SAUDI ARABIA.  
AT THE SAME TIME, I SUBMITTED SEPARATE CONTRACTS FOR AIR-  
CRAFT SALES TO EGYPT AND ISRAEL. THIS IS THE METHOD IN  
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WHICH WE HAVE FROM THE BEGINNING INTENDED TO HANDLE THE  
F-15 PROPOSAL IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROCEDURE SPECIFIED  
IN OUR LAW.

3. UNDER OUR LAW THE CONGRESS WILL HAVE THIRTY DAYS TO  
REVIEW THESE CONTRACTS. NO POSITIVE APPROVING ACTION IS  
NECESSARY BUT THE CONGRESS HAS THE AUTHORITY TO ADOPT A

RESOLUTION OF BOTH HOUSES OBJECTING TO SUCH A PROPOSED CONTRACT.

4. YOUR MAJESTY, AS YOU KNOW, I HAVE WORKED HARD OVER THE LAST FEW MONTHS TO DEVELOP IN OUR CONGRESS UNDERSTANDING

OF THE IMPORTANCE OF THE TRANSFER OF THE F-15 AIRCRAFT TO SAUDI ARABIA. OUR CONSULTATIONS WITH MEMBERS OF CONGRESS HAVE INTENSIFIED IN THE LAST WEEK. THIS IS A CONTROVERSIAL QUESTION AND SOME INFLUENTIAL MEMBERS OF THE CONGRESS HAD STRONGLY URGED ME TO DELAY PROPOSING THE SALE OF AIRCRAFT TO THE MIDDLE EAST AT THIS POINT IN THE PEACE NEGOTIATION. I HAVE TOLD THEM IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT WE PROCEED NOW. WITH THE SUPERB HELP OF YOUR GOVERNMENT, MY ADMINISTRATION HAS DEVELOPED ENCOURAGING CONGRESSIONAL SUPPORT AND SUPPORT IN THE PRESS FOR THE PROPOSED TRANSFER TO SAUDI ARABIA. I AM IMPRESSED BY THE EXTENT TO WHICH OUR CONGRESS, OUR PRESS, AND OUR PUBLIC, EVEN THOSE WHO HAVE CONCERNS ABOUT ARMS TRANSFERS, HAVE COME TO UNDERSTAND THE MOST IMPORTANT, CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE WHICH SAUDI ARABIA IS PLAYING IN WORLD AFFAIRS AND TO SUPPORT MY POLICY OF BUILDING AN EVEN STRONGER RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES. STRENGTHENING THIS RELATIONSHIP, OF COURSE, IS A CENTRAL CONCERN FOR ME.

5. IN THIS THIRTY-DAY PERIOD, WE MUST ANTICIPATE CON-  
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SIDERABLE PUBLIC CONTROVERSY AND INTENSE CONGRESSIONAL REVIEW IN CONNECTION WITH THE PROPOSED AIRCRAFT TRANSFER. MY ADMINISTRATION MUST BE PREPARED TO RESPOND QUICKLY TO THE COMPLEXITIES OF THE PARLIAMENTARY TACTICS AND THE POLITICAL ENVIRONMENT. I INTEND TO DO SO IN A WAY THAT WILL NOT ONLY STRENGTHEN CONGRESSIONAL SUPPORT FOR THIS PROPOSAL BUT WILL BUILD UPON THE GROWING APPRECIATION IN MY COUNTRY THAT STRONG U.S.-SAUDI COOPERATION IS ESSENTIAL TO ACHIEVE OUR BROAD COMMON PURPOSE OF PEACE AND SECURITY IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND SURROUNDING AREAS AND OUR COMMON INTERESTS IN GLOBAL ECONOMIC ORDER.

6. IN WORKING TOGETHER OVER THE LAST FEW MONTHS TO BUILD A BASIS FOR CONGRESSIONAL SUPPORT FOR THIS PROPOSAL, I FEEL THAT OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS HAVE EMBARKED ON A NEW ERA OF INTENSIFIED COOPERATION AND COMMON PURPOSE. SUSTAINED BY YOUR CONTINUED UNDERSTANDING AND SUPPORT, I AM DETERMINED TO BRING THIS ISSUE TO A SUCCESSFUL RESOLUTION.  
SINCERELY, JIMMY CARTER. END QUOTE.

7. FOR CHARGE: IN DELIVERING ABOVE MESSAGE YOU SHOULD RESPOND TO ANY QUESTIONS SAG MAY RAISE ABOUT THE STATUS

OF THE "PACKAGE" CONCEPT BY DRAWING ON POINTS PROVIDED  
PARA 4 STATE 109614 AND SECRETARY'S REMARKS APRIL 30 ON  
"FACE THE NATION". VANCE

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** TEXT, POLICIES, FIGHTER AIRCRAFT, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS, MILITARY SALES, MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS, CAT-B  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 01 may 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Document Number:** 1978STATE110151  
**Document Source:** CORE  
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**Drafter:** JWTWINAM:TH  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Litigation History:**  
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**Original Classification:** SECRET  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Review Transfer Date:**  
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**SAS ID:** 2530560  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** F-15 SALE  
**TAGS:** MASS, PPDC, SA, US, (CARTER, JIMMY), (SAUD, KHALID IBN ABD AL-AZIZ AL)  
**To:** JIDDA WHITE HOUSE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
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20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014